

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY  
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**PRESENT:** Chair Erickson, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, Rosemary Desisles, Joe Witkowski, Ed Koslowski, Jerry Polus, Sherry Steenbock, Tracy Rosinski, Louise Dahlke

**EXCUSED:** Delores Pierce

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**\*\*Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1619**

**1. Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:00 p.m.

**2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.**

**3. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. Approve or Modify Minutes of April 15, 2014.**

**Motion made by Ed Koslowski, seconded by Duane Pierce to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Budget Status Financial Report through March 31, 2014.**

The budget status financial report for the first quarter of 2014 was attached to the agenda. This report will be provided to the Subcommittee on a quarterly basis.

**6. Any new discussion regarding Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.**

Haskins indicated that he has volunteered a lady from his church, Laura Nehlsen, to sing the National Anthem. Tickets to the Fair will be provided to Nehlsen and her husband at no charge.

Polus indicated that the Schneider Ride With Pride truck will be at the Fair as well as the Veterans Center mobile van. He also indicated that a number of other organizations including the VA Regional Office, State VA, Veterans' Clinics, Veterans' Home in King, Homes for Heroes, Heartland Hospice and possibly a representative of Delta Dental will be at the event. Polus indicated that he will need at least six and possibly eight tables for his groups. Desisles suggested that a separate table be set up for the certificates and that seating at this table be on the inside of the tent rather than the outside as last year it got quite hot sitting in the sun. Dahlke stated that they are happy to set the tent up any way the Subcommittee wishes as long as they are notified before the event. She also indicated that tables are somewhat hard to come by and Koslowski responded that he had several of his own that he would bring.

The topic of a band was also discussed. It was decided that the chosen band will split their playing time into two segments; one before the ceremony and the other segment to follow the ceremony. Polus noted that if the Subcommittee wished to include a picture of the band on the poster

advertising the event he would need to have a better quality photograph as soon as possible as he anticipates having a draft of the poster and tickets by next month's meeting. He would like the posters and tickets sent out to the various organizations by the end of June. Dahlke indicated that she would let gate personnel know that if a Vet should happen to show up without a ticket that they should be admitted upon showing their veterans' identification.

7. **Discussion re: Award certificate for Veterans Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.**

A draft of the certificate that will be passed out to the Korean Veterans at the Fair was provided to the Subcommittee for comments. Several comments were made and Erickson will work with County Board staff to have the changes made and then present an updated copy for approval.

8. **Approval of Proclamation Marking August 16, 2014 as Korean War Veterans Day at Brown County Fair; send to Human Services Committee in June.**

**Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Jim Haskins to approve the Proclamation Marking August 16, 2014 as Korean War Veterans Day at Brown County Fair. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

9. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

Polus did not have anything to add other than what had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

10. **Comments from Carl Soderburg.**

Soderburg indicated that he had spent a very enjoyable Saturday recently in Sturgeon Bay at the ceremony proclaiming Sturgeon Bay as a Coast Guard City. He noted that the weather was perfect and there were some very good speakers and he thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Soderburg also commented on the national issues with the Veterans' Administration and stated that currently this issue remains in the preliminary information gathering stage. Soderburg will keep this Subcommittee advised of developments with regard to this matter as they occur.

11. **Comments from Tracy Rosinski.**

Rosinski did not have anything to add other than what was discussed earlier.

12. **Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Koslowski, Maino, Ness, Pierce Steenbock & Witkowski).**

-Desisles indicated that the Navy League will be involved with the citywide Kids Day on June 25. There will be a Shipbuilding 101 story board along with a knot board with demonstrations provided by the Sea Cadets. They will also be handing out gifts to the kids and will be demonstrating the Sea Perch as well as other activities.

Desisles also indicated that she still hoped to get an Honor Run together for some time later in the fall and she will keep this Subcommittee advised of progress in this regard.

-Koslowski indicated that he will send Polus the contract for the band for the Fair for payment. Erickson explained the procedure for paying bills in the County. Koslowski also shared with the Subcommittee the banners he had made for the event. Pierce added that he got last year's banner from John Walschinski so that will be available for use as well.

Koslowski continued that the June 19 Meet and Greet committee meeting will be held at the Oneida Casino in the Amvets Hospitality Room during the convention. He also noted that he will be hosting a golf outing at Village Green on June 19. The cost is \$30 and includes nine holes of golf, a cart and meal. Koslowski invited the members of this Subcommittee to the meeting. He also noted that the Amvets get acquainted dance will be held on June 20 for anyone interested in attending.

-Sherry Steenbock informed that Subcommittee that 90 new certificates will be hand delivered to veterans in nursing homes. Duane Pierce visited a number of nursing homes to get veterans to sign up for the certificates and he will hand deliver them.

-Erickson reported that the fishing club he belongs to is working on adopting a lake at the Botanical Gardens. If everything goes as planned, the club would stock the lake with fish and build some handicapped accessible piers. The club typically hosts four fishing outings per year, including one for disabled veterans and/or Wounded Warriors.

-Jim Haskins reported that the downtown neighborhood association is looking for donations to enhance the Veterans' Memorial outside of the Neville Museum. He saw that they were interested in adding a gazebo and other improvements however this is still in the pre-planning stages.

Haskins also reported that although Stowe Drug in West De Pere is out of business, they have listed the names of all Brown County war casualties on their front window. He stated that Stowe had always been very good to veterans.

The last thing that Haskins reported on was a group he recently became aware of called Bugles Across America. This group was founded in 2000 as a response to the shortage of buglers required to provide the mandated and deserved honors for veterans. In 2000 new federal legislation clarified that every honorably discharged veteran had a right to at least two uniformed military personnel to fold and present the flag and to sound Taps for funeral honors. The law went on to state that a CD recording of Taps could be used if a bugler was not available, however the founder of Bugles Across America felt that a recording of Taps was not sufficient to properly pay tribute to the sacrifice and service these veterans had given for their country. Bugles Across America was founded on the premise that there were certainly enough people that had the ability to actually play a horn and provide a dignified and live sounding of Taps. All that was needed was a way to create and maintain a readily accessible data base of the names of these individuals. That data base has now grown to a list of volunteer buglers several thousand strong from all 50 states. A website was established to provide on-line publication of the organization and to allow the general public to request the services of a bugler.

-Duane Pierce noted that a ceremony will be held on Memorial Day at 8:00 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial at the Neville Museum. A group will then go over to De Pere to march in the Memorial Day Parade which begins at 10:00 a.m. He also indicated that there will be a ceremony at Voyager Park at 12:15 p.m. as well as a ceremony at Heritage Hill at 5:00 p.m. Finally, the Patriotic Society will be holding their annual event on Memorial Day at the Admiral Flatley statue along the Fox River.

Pierce also reported on a summit he will be attending to discuss the issues of PTSD, traumatic brain injury, military sexual assault and veteran suicide. This is part of the Fox Valley Warrior Summit which was formed in September or October of last year and Pierce has invited this group to attend the Fair event.

-Joe Witkowski reported that he had recently attended an open house at the Veterans Home in King. He stated that they had a band perform and there were old vehicles on display as well as a number of different things. He felt it was a very good event and he had a good time there. He stated that he goes to this every year, but this year's event was bigger and better than usual.

13. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

None

14. **Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 6:09 p.m. Vote taken.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary